Line of actual control

1600. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a line of actual control dividing Jammu and Kashmir, if so, since when; and through which villages does it pass; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to convert it into an international border?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Subsequent to the cease-fire between India and Pakistan on 17 December, 1971 and the signing of the Simla Agreement on 2 July, 1972 work on the delineation of a Line of Control (LOC) was jointly undertaken by the Indian and Pakistani Army Authorities and completed on 11 December, 1972. The LOC starting from Sangam near Manawar Tawi, runs generally Northwards to the West of Palanwala, Laleali, Naushahra, Jhangar, Rajouri, Punch, Uri, Tithwal and Keran upto Bor. Thereafter, it turns Eastwards and runs to the North of Kuchhaban, Shalabatho, Naean Gali, Machhal, Kanzalwan, Dawar, Niru, Kaobal Gali, Dras Kargil, Batalik, Tyakshi, Chalunka and Shukpa, thence Northwards upto a reference point No. 9842 on the Glaciers.

(b) No, Sir.

Measures for safety of students in Russia

1601. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian students are studying in Moscow and various other cities of the Republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to bring these students to safer places to enable them to continue their studies?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information presently available with Government almost all the locations where Indian students are studying in the former USSR are quite safe. Wherever difficulties have arisen as for instance in the case of Georgir, Government have taken necessary steps including facilitating transit arrangements in appropriate academic institutions assistance in placement of students in appropriate academic institutions in former USSR.

The situation is constantly under review.

Visit of unofficial Indian delegation to South Africa

1602. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unofficial Indian delegation visited South Africa recently;

(b) what are the names of the members of the delegation and the purpose of the visit; and

(c) whether the African National Congress has protested against the visit of this unofficial delegation obviously to attend the official opening of the Parliament, which has caused great suffering to the black majority of South Africa?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Press reports, the delegation consisted of Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Shri Chandra

Swamy, and some Indian businessmen. Dr. Subramanian Swamy reportedly described his visit as a "private fact finding mission".

(c) the African National Congress has criticised the delegation's attendance of the opening of the tri-cameral parliament which the ANC regards as a racist institution.

Diplomatic relations with Russian Republics

1603. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded recognition to the 12 independent Republics which so far were under the Soviet Union;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to establish diplomatic relations with them;

(c) whether any agreements are proposed to be concluded with those Republics separately for maintaining friendship with them and continuing cooperation with them in respect of trade and commerce; and

(d) if so, details of steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Diplomatic relations continue to exist with Russia and have already been established with Adarbaijan, Kazakhstan and Ukraina. The process of establishment of diplomatic relations with the other Republics is underway.

(c) and (d) Agreements/Treaties would be signed with each of the independent Republics of the erstwhile USSR after bilateral consultations taking into account complementarity of interests and the need for development of cooperation in diverse and specific areas for mutual benefit. Some Agreements have already been signed with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Discussions are underway for conclusion of such Agreements with the other Republics such as Russia. Ukrains, Kirghhizstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Tadjikistan, as necessary.

Outcome of SAARC Meeting

1604. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the subjects discussed at the SAARC meeting held recently at Colombo;

(b) important decisions taken at that meeting in respect of mutual cooperation among the SAARC nations;

(c) the measures, if any, suggested at that meeting to tackle international terrorism; and

(d) details of follow-up action being taken in respect of the above decisions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Tht subjects discussed at the Sixth SAARC Summit held on December 21, 1991 at Colombo extended from international economic and political issues to proposals to strengthen the Association and project collective positions in international fora, measures for poverty alleviation in South Asia, regional economic cooperation and cooptration onenvironmental matters. Also included in the discussions were: provision of adequate shelter in the region, better